

Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4559

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, SHUM, WZ

SUBJECT: KEN BEDELL RECOMMENDATIONS ON SWAZILAND REFUGEE SITUATION

REF: STATE 99624

1. KEN BEDELL VISITED EMBASSY APRIL 20 AND INQUIRED IF EMBASSY WAS EXPECTING HIM. EMBOFF REPLIED WE HAD BEEN INFORMED OF HIS FORTH-COMING VISIT (REFTEL). HE TOOK OUT TELEGRAM FROM HIS FATHER STATING THAT HE WAS TO GO TO EMBASSY AS WE WERE EXPECTING HIM. CONVERSATION WAS OF LIMITED SCOPE BECAUSE BEDELL HAD LITTLE NEW TO DISCUSS.

2. HOWEVER, BEDELL RETURNED TO EMBASSY APRIL 21 TO INFORM EMBASSY OF FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS HE IS MAKING TO HIS FATHER CONCERNING SWAZILAND:

A. US SHOULD INFORM GOS THAT A COPY OF GOS REFUGEE CONTROL ORDER (MBABANE 1358) WAS SENT TO WASHINGTON TO BE EXAMINED BY DEPARTMENT'S LEGAL EXPERTS AND THAT US EXPECTS EXAMINATION WILL REVEAL THAT ORDER IS IN CONFLICT WITH UN 1967 PROTOCOL ON REFUGEES.

B. US SHOULD INFORM GOS THAT WE ARE CONCERNED ON SPECIFIC ISSUE
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OF WIVES' AND FAMILIES' ACCESS TO DETAINED PAC MEMBERS.

C. US SHOULD STRENGTHEN ITS EARLIER GENERAL REQUEST TO GOS (NAMELY, THAT THE GOS SHOULD DO NOTHING PRECIPITIOUS) INTO A SPECIFIC REQUEST THAT THE SOWETO STUDENT REFUGEES NOT BE DECLARED PROHIBITED IMMIGRANTS; IT WILL BE EASIER FOR UNHCR TO FIND COUNTRIES THAT WILL ACCEPT REFUGEES IF THEY ARE NOT DECLARED PROHIBITED

IMMIGRANTS.

D. CONGRESS SHOULD REEXAMINE ITS AID POLICIES TOWARD SWAZILAND.

E. US SHOULD BECOME INVOLVED QUICKLY IN EFFORT TO ASSIST IN PLACEMENT OF STUDENT REFUGEES.

3. EMBOFF SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME EXPLAINING SOME OF THE REALITIES OF DIPLOMATIC PROCEDURES, INTERNATONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND CONGRESSIONAL PRIORITIES IN AFRICA.

BEDELL SEEMS TO BE AWARE THAT US HAS LITTLE LEVERAGE WITH GOS EXCEPT OUR AID PROGRAMS AND THAT UNLESS CONGRESS IS WILLING TO SEE AID USED A POLITICAL WEAPON, OUR EFFECTIVENESS IS SEVERELY LIMITED.

4. BEDELL ALSO STATED THAT BLACK CAUCUS HAD SENT TELEGRAM TO KING SOBUZA BUT HE WAS UNAWARE OF CONTENTS. PRESUMABLY IT DEALT WITH PLIGHT OF SOWETO STUDENT REFUGEES IN CONTEXT OF GOS CRACKDOWN ON PAC/SWAZILAND. WACHOB

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Message Attributes

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